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Researches on convex extension problems of fuzzy valued functions

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Abstract

In this paper, we extend the concept of fuzzy valued convex functions, subdifferential, and introduce a kind of subdifferential of general fuzzy valued functions. By means of the convexification method, the paper studies the relationships between the subdifferential of general fuzzy valued functions and the subdifferential of convexification fuzzy valued functions, so that we get the conditions of how lower semi continuous fuzzy valued functions can be extended to fuzzy valued convex functions. ©2016 All rights reserved.

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1. Introduction

Since the establishment of fuzzy set theory, it has made up for the shortage of classical and statistical mathematics in a certain degree because of its success in dealing with a kind of fuzziness problem which exists widely [1, 7, 11, 14]. More and more scholars use the knowledge of fuzzy mathematics to solve practical problems in mathematical programming. And the fuzzy planning developed rapidly because of the joint efforts of the scholars. As it is known to us, the convexity theory in the classical mathematics plays a very important role in mathematical programming [4, 8, 10]. With the development of the research in fuzzy programming, some of the classical mathematical programming. Thus we discuss the convexity of fuzzy sets and the convexity of fuzzy function on convex sets and its application in fuzzy programming [2, 3, 5, 9, 12], which has greatly enriched the contents of

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mathematical programming study.

Convex fuzzy programming is a kind of programming problem whose objective function is fuzzy valued convex function (convex fuzzy mapping) and constraint set is convex. In order to use the methods of analytics better to discuss convex fuzzy programming, the concepts of sub gradient the subdifferential are proposed and the extremum problems of fuzzy valued convex functions are discussed, the necessary and sufficient conditions of extremum values for fuzzy valued convex functions are obtained [13, 15]. At the same time, the saddle point and min-max theorem is discussed in the sense of fuzzy set theory in [15], the Lagrange duality and KKT conditions of convex function is wide in fuzzy programming, but the fuzzy valued function with convexity is relatively few. Thus, the convex extending of general fuzzy valued functions and the combining of the optimization problem of fuzzy valued function with subdifferential problems of fuzzy valued convex function are meaningful works for us to use the principal of fuzzy valued convex analysis in study of fuzzy optimization problems.

On the convexification problems of general fuzzy valued functions, the method for transforming the general fuzzy valued functions into fuzzy valued convex functions was proposed in [16, 17] via the epigraph of fuzzy valued functions together with the convexification fuzzy valued function characterization theorem. With the help of fuzzy valued functions convexification method, this paper study the convex extension problems of general fuzzy valued function.

2. Preliminaries

First, we recall some definitions and results about fuzzy numbers (see [7, 10, 17]). Let u be a fuzzy set that on the real numbers field R, if it has the following properties:

- (i) u is normal, i.e., there exists an $x_0 \in R$ with $u(x_0) = 1$;
- (ii) u is a fuzzy convex set, i.e. $u(\alpha x + (1 \alpha)y) \ge \min(u(x), u(y))$ whenever $x, y \in R$ and $\alpha \in [0, 1]$;
- (iii) u is upper semi-continuous;
- (iv) $[u]_0 = cl\{x \in R | u(x) > 0\}$ is a compact set.

Let \mathcal{F}_0 denote the family of fuzzy numbers and \mathcal{F}_0 is called fuzzy number space. For any $r \in R$, define a fuzzy number \tilde{r} :

$$\tilde{r}(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & t = r; \\ 0, & t \neq r. \end{cases}$$

Obviously, $[u]_{\alpha}$ are nonempty bounded closed intervals for every $u \in \mathcal{F}_0$ and $\alpha \in [0, 1]$, where $[u]_{\alpha} = [u_*(\alpha), u^*(\alpha)]$ when $\alpha \in [0, 1]$.

We call

$$u = \{(u_*(\alpha), u^*(\alpha), \alpha) | 0 \le \alpha \le 1\}$$

the parametric expression of u. A partial order relationship on \mathcal{F}_0 is defined by

$$u \leq v \Leftrightarrow u^*(\alpha) \leq v^*(\alpha) , \ u_*(\alpha) \leq v_*(\alpha) , \ for \ any \ \alpha \in [0,1].$$

For any $u, v \in \mathcal{F}_0$ and $r \in R$, the addition and scalar multiplication on \mathcal{F}_0 can be represented as:

$$u + v = \{(u_*(\alpha), u^*(\alpha), \alpha) | 0 \le \alpha \le 1\} + \{(v_*(\alpha), v^*(\alpha), \alpha) | 0 \le \alpha \le 1\}$$

= \{(u_*(\alpha) + v_*(\alpha), u^*(\alpha) + v^*(\alpha), \alpha) | 0 \le \alpha \le 1\},

$$ru = \{ ((ru)_*(\alpha), (ru)^*(\alpha), \alpha) | 0 \le \alpha \le 1 \}.$$

Where

$$(u+v)_*(\alpha) = u_*(\alpha) + v_*(\alpha), (u+v)^*(\alpha) = u^*(\alpha) + v^*(\alpha), 0 \le \alpha \le 1.$$

If $r \ge 0$,

$$(ru)_*(\alpha) = ru_*(\alpha), (ru)^*(\alpha) = ru^*(\alpha), 0 \le \alpha \le 1$$

and if r < 0

$$(ru)_*(\alpha)=ru^*(\alpha), (ru)^*(\alpha)=ru_*(\alpha), 0\leq \alpha\leq 1$$

For $\xi_i (i = 1, 2, \dots, n) \in \mathcal{F}_0$, we call $\xi = (\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n)$ is an *n*-dimensional fuzzy vector. Let $\mathcal{F}_0^n(R)$ denote the set of all *n*-dimensional fuzzy vectors.

Let \mathbb{R}^n denote *n*-dimensional Euclidean Space. For

$$\xi = (\xi_1, \xi_2, \cdots, \xi_n,) \in \mathcal{F}_0^n(R), x = (x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n) \in R^n$$

the inner product of ξ and x is defined as

$$<\xi, x>=x_1\xi_1+x_2\xi_2+\cdots+x_n\xi_n$$

Let D be a nonempty subset of \mathbb{R}^n . A mapping $f: D \to \mathcal{F}_0$ is said to be a fuzzy valued function. By the parameter expression of fuzzy number, the fuzzy valued function can be expressed as

$$f(x) = \{ (f(x)_*(\alpha), f(x)^*(\alpha), \alpha) | 0 \le \alpha \le 1 \},\$$

where $[f(x)]^{\alpha} = [f(x)_*(\alpha), f(x)^*(\alpha)]$, for every $\alpha \in [0, 1]$.

Definition 2.1 ([16]). Let $f: D \to \mathcal{F}_0$ be a fuzzy valued function, G = conv(epif), then the fuzzy valued function defined on convD

$$f_C(x) = \inf\{u | (x, u) \in G, u \in \mathcal{F}_0\}$$

is called the convex hull of f, denoted by $f_C = conv f$. Where

$$epif = \{(x, u) | x \in D, u \in \mathcal{F}_0, f(x) \le u\}$$

is the epigraph of f, convD and conv(epif) are the convex hulls corresponding to D and epif, respectively.

In paper [16, 17], it has been proved that $f_C = convf$ is the fuzzy valued convex function on convD, and f_C is called the convexification fuzzy valued function of f.

Theorem 2.2 ([16]). Let f_C be the convexification fuzzy valued function of fuzzy valued function $f: D \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_0$, then

$$f_C(x) = \inf_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \{\lambda_1 f(x_1) + \lambda_2 f(x_2) + \dots + \lambda_m f(x_m) | \lambda_i > 0,$$
$$x_i \in D(i = 1, 2, \dots, m), \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i = 1, \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i x_i = x\}$$

Definition 2.3 ([3]). Let $f: D \to \mathcal{F}_0$ be a fuzzy valued function.

• Let $x_0 \in D$, f is lower semi continuous at x_0 if for every $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists an $\delta > 0$ so that

$$f(x_0) \le f(x) + \hat{\epsilon}$$

for all $x \in D$ and $||x - x_0|| < \delta$.

• f is said to be lower semi continuous if it is lower semi continuous at every point of D.

Property 2.4. If f be the lower semi continuous fuzzy valued function on D. Then for any $r \in [0, 1]$, $f(x)_*(r)$ and $f(x)^*(r)$, are lower semi continuous real valued functions on D.

Proof. Let f be the lower semi continuous fuzzy valued function on D, $x_0 \in D$. Then for any $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists an $\delta > 0$ satisfied $f(x_0) \leq f(x) + \tilde{\varepsilon}$ when

$$\|x - x_0\| < \delta.$$

Therefore, for every $r \in [0, 1]$, we have

$$f(x_0)_*(r) \le f(x)_*(r) + \varepsilon,$$

$$f(x_0)^*(r) \le f(x)^*(r) + \varepsilon.$$

It follows that $f(x)_*(r)$ and $f(x)^*(r)$ are lower semi continuous fuzzy valued functions on D.

Lemma 2.5 ([6]). Let $f : D \to (-\infty, +\infty)$ be a real valued function, $x_0 \in D$. Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (1) f is lower semi continuous at point x_0 ;
- (2) for any $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $\delta > 0$, such that when $||x x_0|| < \delta$, there has $f(x_0) \le f(x) + \epsilon$.
- (3) for any $x_n \in D(n = 1, 2, \cdots)$, if $||x_n x_0|| \to 0 (n \to \infty)$, then $f(x_0) \leq \underline{\lim}_{n \to \infty} f(x_n)$.

Definition 2.6 ([15]). Let ξ be an *n*-dimensional fuzzy vector, $f: D \to \mathcal{F}_0$ be a fuzzy valued convex function, $x \in D$. If for any $z \in D$, there has

$$f(z) \ge f(x) + \langle \xi, z - x \rangle,$$

then we call ξ the sub gradient of f at x.

Call the

$$\partial f(x) = \{\xi | \xi \in \mathcal{F}_0^n(R), f(z) \ge f(x) + \langle \xi, z - x \rangle, \forall z \in D\}$$

subdifferential of f at x.

If $\partial f(x) \neq \phi$, then f is called subdifferentiable at x, or called f exists the subdifferential at x.

We generalize the concept of fuzzy valued convex functions subdifferential above, and introduce a kind of subdifferential of general fuzzy valued functions which is defined as:

Definition 2.7. Let $f: D \to \mathcal{F}_0$ be a general fuzzy valued function, $x \in D$. The subdifferential of f at x is defined as

$$\partial f(x) = \{\xi | \xi \in \mathcal{F}_0^n(R), f(z) \ge f(x) + \langle \xi, z - x \rangle, \forall z \in D\}.$$

If $\partial f(x) \neq \phi$, then f is called sub differentiable at x, or it is said that the subdifferential of f exists at x.

3. Main Results

By means of the convexification method (Definition 2.1), we study the relationships between the subdifferential of general fuzzy valued functions and the subdifferential of convexification fuzzy valued functions, then we get the existence conditions of convex extension for fuzzy valued functions.

Theorem 3.1. Let $f: D \to \mathcal{F}_0$ be a fuzzy valued function. Then f is sub differentiable at x if and only if $f_C(x) = f(x)$ and the convexification fuzzy valued function f_C of f is also sub differentiable at point x.

Proof. Necessity: Let f be sub differentiable at x, then there exists $\xi \in \mathcal{F}_0^n(R)$, such that

$$f(y) \ge f(x) + \langle \xi, y - x \rangle$$
, for every $y \in D$

Thus, for $m \in N, \lambda_i > 0, x_i \in D(i = 1, 2, \dots, m)$, when $\sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i = 1, \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i x_i = x$, we have

$$f(x_i) \ge f(x) + \langle \xi, x_i - x \rangle (i = 1, 2, \cdots, m)$$

Therefore,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_i f(x_i) \ge f(x) + <\xi, \sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_i x_i - x \ge f(x).$$

Thus, we have

$$\inf_{m \in N} \{ \sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_i f(x_i) | \lambda_i > 0, x_i \in D(i=1,2,\cdots,m), \sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_i = 1, \sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_i x_i = x \} \ge f(x),$$

that is

$$f_C(x) \ge f(x).$$

On the other hand, by Theorem 2.2, we know that $f_C(x) \leq f(x)$. Hence $f_C(x) = f(x)$.

In the following, we prove that f_C is sub differentiable at x.

For every $y \in conv\overline{D}$, let $\lambda_i > 0$ $(i = 1, 2, \dots, m)$ and $\sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i = 1$, so that

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_i y_i = y$$

Since f is sub differentiable at point x, there exists $\xi \in \partial f(x)$ such that

$$f(y_i) \ge f(x) + \langle \xi, y_i - x \rangle \ (i = 1, 2, \cdots, m)$$

therefore,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_i f(y_i) \ge f(x) + \langle \xi, \sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_i y_i - x \rangle = f(x) + \langle \xi, y - x \rangle.$$

Thus, we have

$$\inf_{m \in N} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_i f(y_i) | \lambda_i > 0, x_i \in D(i = 1, 2, \cdots, m), \sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_i = 1, \sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_i y_i = y \right\}$$

$$\geq f(x) + \langle \xi, y - x \rangle.$$

It follows from $f_C(x) = f(x)$, we have

$$f_C(y) \ge f_C(x) + \langle \xi, y - x \rangle$$
.

So $\xi \in \partial f_C(x)$. Thereby, f_C is sub differentiable at point x.

Sufficiency: Let f_C be sub differentiable at point x, then there exists $\xi \in \mathcal{F}_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$, for any $y \in convD$, such that

 $f_C(y) \ge f_C(x) + \langle \xi, y - x \rangle$.

It follows from $f_C(x) = f(x)$ and $D \subset convD$, we get

$$f(y) \ge f_C(y) \ge f(x) + \langle \xi, y - x \rangle, \forall y \in D.$$

Thus we have $\xi \in \partial f(x) \neq \emptyset$, thereby f is sub differentiable at point x.

Theorem 3.2. Let $f: D \to \mathcal{F}_0$ be a lower semi continuous fuzzy valued function. If for any convex extreme subset $E(\dim E > 0)$ of convD, the set B where the subdifferential exist of $f|_{E \cap D}$ is dense in $E \cap D$, then

- (1) The convexification fuzzy valued function f_C of f is the extension of f.
- (2) The subdifferential of $f_C|_E$ exists on B.

Proof.

(1) Let $x_0 \in D$. If x_0 is an extreme point of D, obviously we have $f_C(x_0) = f(x_0)$. If x_0 is not an extreme point of D, then let $x_i \in D, \lambda_i > 0 (i = 1, 2, \dots, m)$, and $\sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i = 1$, such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_i x_i = x_0.$$

Let *E* be the minimum convex extreme subset of convD containing x_0, x_1, \dots, x_m . Since x_0 is not an extreme point, then we have dim E > 0.

Next, we will prove $conv(E \cap D) = E$.

By $E \cap D \subset E$, we obtain that

$$conv(E\bigcap D) \subset convE = E.$$

Conversely, for $y \in E \subset convD$, there exist $y_i \in D, \beta_i > 0 (i = 1, 2, \dots, j)$, and $\sum_{i=1}^{j} \beta_i = 1$, such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^{J} \beta_i y_i = y_i$$

Since E is the extreme subset, thus $y_i \in E(i = 1, 2, \dots, j)$, hence

$$y \in E \bigcap D(i = 1, 2, \cdots, j).$$

Therefore

$$y \in conv(E \bigcap D)$$

thus, $conv(E \cap D) = E$.

Next, we prove that $x_0 \in icrE$ (where icrE is the relative interior point set of E). Assume $x_0 \notin icrE$, then $x_0 \in E/icrE$, by the separation theorem of convex sets, there exists

 $x^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$

such that

$$< x^*, x_0 > \ge \sup_{y \in E} < x^*, y >,$$

hence

$$< x^*, x_i > \le < x^*, x_0 > (i = 1, 2, \cdots, m).$$

It follows from

$$< x^*, \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i x_i > = < x^*, x_0 >,$$

we easily obtain

$$< x^*, x_i > = < x^*, x_0 > (i = 1, 2, \cdots, m)$$

Let

$$A = \{ y \in E | < x^*, y \ge < x^*, x_0 \ge \},\$$

then it is easy to prove A is the convex extreme subset of E and $A \subset E$.

Namely, A is the convex extreme subset of convD and containing x_0, x_1, \cdots, x_m .

This contradicts E is the minimum convex extreme subset of convD containing x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n . Thus, $x_0 \in icr E$. Let

$$g: E \to \mathcal{F}_0(conv(E \bigcap D) = E)$$

be the convexification fuzzy valued function of $f|_{E \cap D}$, then for any $r \in [0, 1]$, $g(x)_*(r)$ and $g(x)^*(r)$ are the real valued convex functions on E and continuous at $x_0 \in icrE$.

Since set B on which the subdifferential of $f|_{E \cap D}$ exists is dense in $E \cap D$. Hence, for $x_0 \in E \cap D$, there exists $\{z_n\} \subset B$ such that $z_n \to x_0 (n \to \infty)$. By Theorem 3.1, we have

$$f(z_n) = g(z_n) = f|_{E \bigcap D}(z_n)$$

Since f is lower semi continuous, we get $f(x)_*(r)$ and $f(x)^*(r)$ are lower semi continuous at $x_0 \in icrE$ by Property 2.4. Hence, from Lemma 2.5, for any $r \in [0, r]$, we have

$$f(x_0)_*(r) \le \lim_{n \to \infty} f(z_n)_*(r) = \lim_{n \to \infty} g(z_n)_*(r) = g(x_0)_*(r),$$
$$f(x_0)^*(r) \le \lim_{n \to \infty} f(z_n)^*(r) = \lim_{n \to \infty} g(z_n)^*(r) = g(x_0)^*(r).$$

We have

$$f(x_0) \le g(x_0).$$

Consequently,

$$g(x_0) = \inf_{m \in N} \{ \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f(x_i) | \lambda_i > 0, x_i \in D \bigcap E(i = 1, 2, \cdots, m), \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i = 1, \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i x_i = x_0 \}$$

$$\leq \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f(x_i).$$

Thereby, we have $f(x_0) \leq \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f(x_i)$. Hence,

$$f(x_0) \le \inf_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \{ \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f(x_i) | \lambda_i > 0, x_i \in D(i=1,2,\cdots,m), \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i = 1, \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i x_i = x \}$$

That is, $f(x_0) \leq f_C(x_0)$.

On the other hand, $f(x_0) \ge f_C(x_0)$. So $f(x_0) = f_C(x_0)$. Thus, we have f_C is the extension of f by $D \subset convD$.

(2) We now prove that the subdifferential of $f_C|_E$ exists on B. For every $x \in B$, by the known conditions, we have $\partial f|_{E \cap D}(x) \neq \emptyset$. Next, we prove

$$\partial f_C|_E(x) \supset \partial f|_{E \cap D}(x)$$

For every $y \in E \subseteq convD$, let $y_i \in D, v_i > 0 (i = 1, 2, \dots, k)$, and $\sum_{i=1}^k v_i = 1$, such that $y = \sum_{i=1}^k v_i y_i$. Since E is the extreme subset, thus according to $y_i \in E(i = 1, 2, \dots, k)$, we have $y_i \in D \bigcap E(i = 1, 2, \dots, k)$. Hence, for $\xi_x \in \partial f|_{E \cap D}(x)$, we get

$$f(y_i) \ge f(x) + \langle \xi_x, y_i - x \rangle \ (i = 1, 2, \cdots, k).$$

Therefore

$$\sum_{k=1}^{k} v_i f(y_i) \ge f(x) + \langle \xi_*, \sum_{k=1}^{k} v_i y_i - x \rangle (i = 1, 2, \cdots, k).$$

Thus, we have

$$\inf_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \{ \sum_{i=1}^{k} \lambda_i f(y_i) | v_i > 0, y_i \in D(i=1,2,\cdots,k), \sum_{i=1}^{k} v_i = 1, \sum_{i=1}^{k} v_i x_i = y \} \ge f(x) + \langle \xi_x, y - x \rangle.$$

Since $f_C(x) = f(x)$ on $B \subset D$. Hence, for any $y \in E$,

$$f_C(y) \ge f_C(x) + <\xi_x, y-x > .$$

Hence, $\partial f|_E(x) \supset \partial f|_{E \cap D}(x)$, that is $f|_E(x) \neq \emptyset$. By the arbitrary of x, the subdifferential of $f_C|_E$ exists on B.

By Theorem 3.2, we easily obtain the following corollary:

Corollary 3.3. Let $f: D \to \mathcal{F}_0$ be a lower semi continuous fuzzy valued function and D be a convex set. If the set on which the subdifferential of $f|_E$ exists is dense in E for any convex extreme subset E of D, then f is fuzzy valued convex function.

4. Conclusions

It is well known that fuzzy valued function can not always be extended to fuzzy valued convex functions. Hence the convex extension of general fuzzy valued functions is a natural and important problem, which is helpful to improve the efficiency of global optimization methods. In this paper, we generalize the concept of fuzzy valued convex functions subdifferential, and propose a kind of subdifferential of general fuzzy valued functions. By means of the convexification method, we study the relations between the subdifferential of general fuzzy valued functions and the subdifferential of convexification fuzzy valued functions, then we get the existence conditions of convex extension for fuzzy valued functions. These conditions contribute a new method to the study of the optimization problems on how to transform general fuzzy valued functions into convex fuzzy programming.

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